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Caistor Rural District Council

Lindsey, Lincolnshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.S.H., M.R.H.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

for the Year

1956



**COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,
PLANNING, HOUSING AND WATER :**

(a) Public Health, Water and Planning Committee.

Chairman : Councillor J. W. COUSINS.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H. KEY.

(b) Housing.

Chairman : Councillor J. NICKERSON.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor Capt. J. CLAYTON.

(c) General Purposes Committee.

Chairman : Councillor J. NICKERSON.

(d) Market Rasen U.D. Joint Water Supply Committee.

Councillors	J. W. COUSINS	}	Caistor R.D.
	H. KEY		
	W. C. HALL		
	W. B. LEANING		
	A. B. NAYLOR, J.P.		
Councillor	H. B. BECKETT, Market Rasen U.D.		

(e) Clerk of the Council.

C. G. BARR, M.B.E.

(f) Deputy Clerk ~~and Chief Financial Officer.~~

J. BRAY.

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health:

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Telephone : Caistor 322.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

Caistor 322

Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor:

F. J. ANDREWS, A.M.A.R.D.S., A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

(until December, 1956)

Caistor 322

Part-time Sanitary Inspector:

C. KING, Assoc. R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Water Manager:

H. DIXON

Caistor 323

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report for 1956.

The problems with regard to the accommodation of elderly people still remain as pressing as ever. It is obvious too, that isolated farm cottages are unlikely to be required for housing in the future. A number of these are already falling into disrepair and will have to be demolished in due course.

Sewage disposal in villages still remains a major problem.

The total number of cases of Notifiable diseases for 1956 was very low. None of the more serious epidemic diseases was notified.

The gradual extension of the water supply continued. Every parish has now a piped supply. The purity of the water remains exceptionally good.

Improvement plans for houses have again caused a considerable volume of work for your staff.

With the departure of Mr. Andrews to a new position Mr. H. Todd was appointed as Public Health Inspector.

A very full year was again experienced by your staff. I wish especially to thank Mr. V. G. Hudson for his energy and competence in the execution of his duties. To Mr. H. Dixon again fell the task of dealing with the emergencies that arose in the water services. To all the staff of the Public Health Department my thanks for their active and helpful co-operation are due.

Mr. C. G. Barr, Clerk of the Council, and his staff again gave us their most useful help.

Finally I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his helpful interest in the performance of our duties. To this I would add my thanks to all those members of the Council who have played an active part in our work.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,

Medical Officer of Health,
Caistor Rural District Council.

SECTION A—Vital and General Statistics

The estimated population (Registrar General) shows a slight rise (60) over that of 1955.

It is probable that this rise may be due to the influx of more non-civilian personnel into the parishes of Toft Newton and Stainton-le-Vale.

Over a period of years there has been no appreciable rise in the population of the Rural District. Indeed, in common with many other rural areas in England, the trend is in the opposite direction. The average number of persons per dwelling is now below 3.

The parishes which show increases over the last decades are those which must be regarded as dormitories for urban areas which are contiguous to them.

While the birth rate still shows a higher rate than that for the country as a whole the death rate for the year is now about the same level as that for England and Wales.

The Caistor Rural District comprises 40 parishes.

The area of the Rural District is 119,992 acres.

Population 1921 census	.....	.....	12,670
Population 1931 census	.....	.....	12,648
Population 1951 census	.....	.....	14,310
Population 1956 (civilian) estimated			12,670
Population 1956 estimated	.....		14,370
Habitable houses (excluding Service Premises)	.....	.....	4,341

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April, 1956, was £85,197 and the product of a penny rate was £195 : 3 : 5 for the year ending 31st March, 1956.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

		For England and Wales
Total live births	..... 253	—
Total illegitimate live births	..... 13	—
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1956 (corrected)	..... 20.2	15.7
Total deaths	..... 176	—
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	..... 11.8	11.7
Deaths of infants under one year of age	..... 5	—
Stillbirths	..... 5	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	..... 4	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age	..... 19.8 per 1000	23.8
Deaths of illegitimate infants	..... Nil	—
Deaths from all malignant Neoplasms	..... 13	—
Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system	..... 117	—
Deaths from Measles	..... Nil	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..... Nil	—
Deaths from Puerperal causes	..... Nil	—

In view of the small numbers of infants concerned the mortality rate cannot be regarded as reasonably comparative with that of other areas.

There have been two marked alterations in the mortality returns. The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was halved but the deaths from all diseases of the heart and circulatory system was almost double that of the previous year, amounting to 66% of all the deaths registered.

Causes of Death in Caistor Rural District, 1956.

	Male	Female	
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	
2. " " other forms	—	—	
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	
4. Diphtheria	—	—	
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	
8. Measles	—	—	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	
10. Malignant Neoplasms, stomach	1	—	
11. " " lung, bronchus	2	—	
12. " " breast	—	3	
13. " " uterus	—	1	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms	5	1	
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	
16. Diabetes	1	3	
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	10	15	
18. Coronary disease, Angina	22	13	
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	
20. Other heart disease	13	22	
21. Other circulatory disease	9	7	
22. Influenza	3	—	
23. Pneumonia	4	1	
24. Bronchitis	3	—	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	3	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	6	
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	
34. All other accidents	2	1	
35. Suicide	3	—	
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	
	95	81	176

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

1. (a) *Mental Illness.*

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and aftercare is carried out by specially trained staff employed by the Lindsey County Council.

1. (b) *Mental Defectives.*

The County Council, through the Regional Hospital Board, makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council is responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their homes.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*

Examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Anti-typhoid serum, and Scarlet Fever (streptococcus) Anti-toxin are supplied from the above laboratories.

3. *Ambulance Facilities.*

The National Fire Service has general supervision of all ambulances. An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's doctor or nurse or, in the event of an emergency, by asking the telephone operator for the ambulance station.

Summary (for reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

Nursing in the Home. All district nurses come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

Tuberculosis Treatment Centres.

Treatment and aftercare of tuberculosis cases are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest centres are at Brigg, Lincoln and Grimsby.

Hospital, Isolation.

All cases of infectious diseases, including Smallpox, are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

These are controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

Health Visitors.

The Lindsey County Council is in charge of these.

Infant Life Protection.

This is undertaken by the Lindsey County Council.

Dental Clinics and treatments.

This is arranged for mothers and children by the Lindsey County Council. There is a Dental Clinic at Market Rasen.

School Clinics are held at Brigg and Market Rasen.

Home Help Service. This is supplied by the Lindsey County Council.

SECTION C

Notifiable Diseases

This was a relatively quiet year as far as notifiable diseases were concerned. The total of 94 cases fell well below the average of 238 for the last 14 years. The last year which such a low figure was 1954 with 89 cases. The number of cases of whooping cough remained relatively constant while there was a considerable decline in the number of cases of measles.

Diphtheria has not been notified for 5 years. No case of the typhoid group, dysentery, or poliomyelitis was notified.

A case of undulant fever, which is transmitted from cows to man, was brought to my notice during the year.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visited Market Rasen in November. It is hoped that the Unit may be able to visit Caistor in 1957,

Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time against diphtheria in the Rural District was 198 while "Booster" injections were given to 210 children.

Vaccinations against smallpox numbered 86 while 12 revaccinations were performed. It is obvious from these figures and those for previous years that a large majority of children are now unprotected against this disease. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was commenced in the spring and continued in the winter. During the routine examinations of children it was found that 87% of the 760 children examined had been immunised against diphtheria. I think this would be regarded as a satisfactory level of protection in the community.

Notifiable Diseases	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	Average for 10 years 1942-51	Average for 10 years 1932-41	1901 -10
Measles	24	265	4	77	161	140	—†	—†
Whooping Cough	47	47	51	81	82	43	—†	—†
Scarlet Fever	7	8	12	20	41	25.6	20.2	30
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	3.2	3.7	23.7
Pneumonia	4	3	3	4	9	6.4	7.3	—†
Tuberculosis								
(Pulmonary)	5	3	1	9	4	7.4	8.7	—†
(Non-pulmonary)	2	2	4	5	1	5.4	3.8	—†
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	3	2	1	1.8	—†	—†
Erysipelas	2	0	3	0	0	3.5	3.2	4.2*
Poliomyelitis	0	2	1	0	0	0.6	0	†
Ophthalmia								
Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	0.6	†
Typhoid and Para-								
Typhoid Fever	0	1	0	1	0	0.3	0.7	4.8
Dysentery	0	2	7	0	5	1.8	†	†
Food Poisoning	1	2	0	0	1	0	†	†
Encephalitis								
(Infective)	1	1	0	0	0	0	†	†
	94	337	89	199	305	240.0	—	—

† Not notifiable.

* 1903-12.

SECTION D

Water Supply

During the year extensions to the mains were made from Riby village to Riby Grove farm. In addition a long extension from Rothwell carried the water via Croxby to the parishes of Thorganby, Thoresway, Stainton-le-Vale and Kirmond-le-Mire. New mains in Walesby village have now linked that village with the Otby supply. Apart from a few isolated farms and the higher ridge of the Wolds the whole of the Rural District has now a piped water supply available.

The two parishes of Brocklesby and Holton le Moor have their own private water supply. In both cases it is of a high quality. In Glentham a few properties to the West of the village are supplied from the Gainsborough Rural District mains. In Somerby, Kirmond-le-Mire, Swinhope, Thoresway and Thorganby there are private supplies of water to a number of houses. Most of these supplies are satisfactory.

Water in the parish of Sixhills comes from the mains of the Louth Rural District Council. The R.A.F. Married Quarters at Toft Newton are supplied from our mains. The R.A.F. Station at Binbrook which lies in the parish of Stainton-le-Vale is supplied from the Louth Rural District Council mains.

Approximate 94% of all properties in the Rural District are now on satisfactory piped water supplies.

It will be noted that the bacteriological reports show a great improvement with the installation of a chlorinating plant at Nettleton and the linking up of the Otby source to Walesby village.

With the addition of another 11½ miles of mains to the system during 1956 the total length of mains in the Rural District is now 178 miles.

Samples
During the year samples from all the Council's sources of supply were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analyses. A summary of the results follows :—

Source	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total
Nettleton	41	Nil	41
Otby	40	6	46
Tealby	29	Nil	29
Caistor	35	1	36
Supplies from other authorities			
Grimsby	51	17	68
Welton	5	Nil	5
Louth	5	1	6
Private Supplies	9	5	14
TOTALS	215	30	245

The chemical analyses for the supply are as follows :—

DETAILS	SOURCES			
	Caistor	Nettleton	Otby	Tealby
Total Solids dried at 110°C.	276.0	280.0	312.0	390.0
Free Ammonia as N.	0.002	0.008	0.005	0.005
Albumenoid Ammonia as N.	0.005	0.008	0.015	0.008
Nitrogen as Nitrates	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.6
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil	nil	nil	nil
Chlorides as Cl.	20.5	23.5	20.0	23.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO ₃	168.0	152.5	192.5	240.0
Oxygen absorbed from N/80				
Permanganate in 4 hours	0.100	0.108	0.120	0.114
Calcium as CaO	116.0	114.0	136.0	166.4
Magnesium as MgO	2.8	2.0	1.4	2.8
Sulphates as SO ₃	32.9	39.8	41.2	45.3
Possible Combination of Salts in Solution				
Calcium Carbonate	165.0	150.6	192.5	236.0
Calcium Sulphate	57.9	67.7	70.0	77.0
Sodium Chloride	33.8	38.7	33.0	37.9
Magnesium Carbonate	5.88	4.2	2.9	5.88
pH Value	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.4

It will be noted that the great majority of the samples of the public supply of the Caistor Rural District (138 out of 145 samples) were satisfactory. The 17 unsatisfactory samples (out of 68 taken) from the Grimsby supply were all reported at once to the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Water Board and that authority took immediate and active steps to trace the source of the comparatively slight contamination disclosed by the samples.

Domestic Properties connected to water mains at December 31st, 1956.

Parish	No. of houses	No. sup.	Parish	No. of houses	No. sup.
Bigby	80	74	Brought forward	2537	2445
Bishop Norton	113	108	Osgodby	160	156
*Brocklesby	58	52	Owersby	115	109
Buslingthorpe	28	26	Rasen, Middle	395	387
Cabourne	34	33	Rasen, West	46	46
Caistor	581	573	Riby	73	58
Claxby	64	61	†Rothwell	74	69
Glentham	110	106	†Searby-cum-Owmbly	53	53
Grasby	112	107	Sixhills	29	25
*Holton-le-Moor	59	57	Snitterby	73	72
Keelby	291	281	Somerby	23	23
Kelsey, North	275	267	†Stainton-le-Vale	40	32
Kelsey, South	163	158	†Swallow	72	70
†Kirmond-le-Mire	20	17	†Swinhope	23	6
Legsby	103	100	Tealby	194	181
Limber	127	118	Thoresway	57	24
Linwood	48	47	†Thorganby	30	30
Lissington	63	63	Toft Newton	41	41
Nettleton	179	174	Waddingham	181	174
Normanby-le-Wold	29	23	Walesby	78	58
			Willingham, North	47	42
Carried forward	2537	2445	Totals	4341	4101
* Private Supply only		† Part Private Supply			

SECTION E—Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Towns and villages with complete sewerage schemes :—

- (1) Caistor—disposal by land treatment over 7 acres.
Standard of effluent—good.
- (2) Keelby—disposal to new sewage disposal works.
Standard of effluent—good.
- (3) Tealby—disposal to new sewage disposal works.
Standard of effluent—good.
- (4) Middle Rasen—disposal to sewage disposal works. Belonging to Market Rasen U.D.C. in Middle Rasen parish.
Standard of effluent—quite good.

Villages with partial sewerage schemes :—

- (1) North Kelsey—disposal by combined “sewer” with land treatment in field of .652 acres. Discharge to dyke—effluent not good.
- (2) South Kelsey—North End—disposal by combined “sewer” to twin settlement tanks. Discharge of effluent therefrom to dyke.

- (3) South Kelsey—South End. New sewage disposal works with complete treatment—built in conjunction with new Council housing estate. Effluent good.

The condition of the Waddingham Beck continued to give rise to considerable nuisance, and the need to provide a complete sewerage scheme for the village became more urgent than ever.

At Osgodby, Grasby and Bigby and North Owersby, continuous public health nuisances exist by reason of polluted dykes and dykes for 20 or more chains in each of these parishes needed regular cleansing to remove the sludge and to preserve a reasonable flow. Fortunately none of these connects to a major watercourse for some distance but it would be entirely wrong to suppose that all pollution ceases before the water enters the river Ancholme.

Some progress was made in school sanitation and, in particular, Nettleton School was much improved, and now has entirely satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

Nightsoil collection was extended to cover some of the Wold area and, as more time becomes available by reason of conversions to W.C. new sewerage schemes etc., further additional areas will receive a weekly nightsoil collection. Disposal was, during the winter months, not an easy matter but no nuisance arose and no complaint was received on this matter.

The parishes in which no collection is made are as follows :—

Kirmond-le-Mire	Willingham N.
Linwood	Croxby
Sixhills	

Sewer Swabs.

- (1) Sewage disposal works—effluent.

Kelsey, North	.....	2
Kelsey, South	.....	1
Tealby	.....	1
Rothwell	.....	1
	—	5

All these showed no trace of organisms of the enteric, dysentery or Salmonella groups.

- (2) Osgodby—Regional Hospital Board—sanatorium.

Number used	.....	53
Definite evidence of tuberculosis	.....	9

The Hospital Board removed the patients to Cleethorpes in April 1956 and the later tests were, in every case, negative.

- (3) Specimens of faeces

Number taken—21, all from a family at North Kelsey, and all proved negative when examined for shigella sonnei.

SECTION F

Public Health Nuisances.

During the year complaints were received about the discharge of fish juice from lorries passing through Middle Rasen. Suggestions were made to the owners concerned in order to abate this nuisance. This led to some improvement but not to the eradication of the trouble.

Sewer dykes continue to give rise to complaints in many of the parishes. There would appear to be no easy or inexpensive method of dealing with the nuisance arising from these sewage polluted dykes.

SECTION G—Housing

Only 17 houses were completed during the year ; of these 6 were Council dwellings. The urgency of the housing problem seems now to be much reduced ; with no appreciable rise in the population the most important factors are improvements to existing homes and the replacement of derelict houses. No new case of overcrowding came to my notice ; the one or two families which have been under review for some time were visited as necessary.

The Council's system of letting Council houses worked well and I was satisfied that the needs of overcrowded or unsuitably housed families were always carefully considered. It will be noted that the number of applicants for Council houses dropped from 528 in 1955 to 304 in 1956—this was due mainly to the careful checking of applications and only those who renewed their application were left on the list. No application was cancelled until after written notice had been given and, in most cases, the person concerned was interviewed. Out of 304 applicants for 40 parishes almost half (148) have applied for four parishes—namely Caistor, Keelby, Nettleton and Middle Rasen.

The rents of Council houses remained reasonable and I have no reason to suppose that any person was precluded from applying for, or accepting, a Council house by reason of inability to pay the rent.

SECTION H

Health and Welfare of School children.

During the year 760 children were given the routine medical examination in the schools of the Caistor and Market Rasen Districts. 150 children attended at the Market Rasen School Clinic for treatment for various conditions or for examination for fitness for work. 32 of these were treated for subnormal nutrition.

23 children were treated for various diseases of the lungs chiefly bronchitis. Three cases of impetigo were seen. 16 children were treated for other diseases of the skin. No case of scabies was seen during the year. 11 children were treated for anaemia. Four cases of enuresis were treated for long periods. 30 children attended the clinic for various defects of the ear, nose, throat or for enlarged glands.

19 children were examined because of backwardness at school and 10 of these were found to be educationally subnormal.

Examinations of 855 “ leavers ” (over the last 4 years) in the Caistor and Market Rasen districts revealed 2.9% with appendicectomy scars. A comparison with a similar group of 1107 “ leavers ” in Scunthorpe showed that 5.8% had appendicectomy scars.

It would appear that appendicitis is twice as common in the town as in the country. An interesting feature in the study of dental caries in children is the relatively high proportion of those with perfect sets of teeth who come from the poorest strata of the population. The children of well-to-do people tend to have a higher rate of dental caries. Only children, in particular, would appear to have a higher incidence of caries.

SECTION I

Practical hygiene in the community.

Lectures were arranged by Mr. V. G. Hudson at Middle Rasen and Caistor on the provisions of the Regulations under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. A good attendance of food traders, butchers etc. was experienced in both places. Lively discussions took place and the co-operation of those present was asked for in their adherence to these new Regulations.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

To the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1956 was one of steady progress with various aspects of public health work and, in particular, good progress was made with the clearance of some of the worst houses. The system followed by the Council, although of necessity a little slow, worked extremely well in practice and ensured that owners, tenants, Councillors and officials were all satisfied with the final decision. All houses were seen by either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee together with the local Councillor and every owner had the opportunity, and many took it, to appear before the Council to state his case. The atmosphere at these Committees was cordial and friendly and every effort was made to help the owner freely to express his views on the property. As a result there were no appeals against the Council's final decision in any case and some owners even welcomed the Council's action.

An attempt to provide a public convenience in Caistor was not successful and the matter is still undecided (July 1957). The lack of proper sanitary accommodation for the many visitors to Caistor, particularly in the evenings and Sundays during the summer, is a serious problem and the provision of properly sited and well-designed sanitary accommodation for the town of Caistor is most urgent.

During the year Mr. F. J. Andrews left the service of the Council to take up another appointment ; during his period of work for this Council (5 years) he did a considerable amount of useful work.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Planning Committee in particular, for much encouragement and support during the year. I should also like to thank the Clerk of the Council and his staff and the Medical Officer of Health for their ready co-operation at all times. To my own staff I am most grateful, for without a willing staff little can be achieved and I would particularly commend the work of the refuse collection workers (both dry and wet refuse) whose work, while not particularly attractive, makes a very great contribution to the health and comfort of the residents of the area.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

VINCENT G. HUDSON.

(1) Town and Country Planning.

The Council continued to operate, as in previous years, delegated powers from the Lindsey County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. During the year 203 planning proposals were received and dealt with. The relationship between this Council and the County Planning Officer was at all times most cordial and no unnecessary delay occurred in arriving at decisions.

Of the 203 plans, 4 were refused and 1 was withdrawn. Three were refused on planning grounds only (2 petrol filling stations and one site for a house) and the fourth (a site for a bungalow) was refused on both byelaw and planning grounds. There were no appeals made. The number of buildings erected without a plan was again small and, in every case, on application plans were submitted.

(2) Housing and Building Development.

General—the number of new house plans (26) was considerably higher than in the previous year and the number of houses under construction (17) remained nearly constant. Only six dwellings (four houses and two bungalow) were completed for the Council and 11 private houses were completed by private enterprise.

(3) TABLE OF PLANS APPROVED DURING THE YEAR 1956
with corresponding details for 1952-1955

Type of Building	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
1. Council Houses	31	5	16	7	—
2. Private Houses	7	32	27	14	26
3. Additions and Alterations to Houses	91	49	65	65	68
4. Conversions to Houses	4	4	8	6	5
5. Farm Buildings	3	9	5	4	5
6. Factories (including alterations and additions)	1	3	—	—	2
7. Temporary Buildings	10	8	7	—	—
8. Licensed Premises (alterations and additions)	—	—	7	3	2
9. Shops (including alterations and additions)	1	1	2	—	4
10. Petrol Stations and Garages	7	3	4	6	6
11. Local Authority (sewers and water schemes)	7	—	1	3	2
12. Statutory Undertakings (Electricity Board, etc.)	52	31	73	57	24
13. Private Garages	10	30	20	42	38
14. Mineral Workings	1	1	—	2	3
15. Advertisements	16	6	8	6	7
16. Bus Shelters	2	1	—	—	1
17. Store Sheds	—	6	—	3	5
18. Cafe and additions	—	2	3	2	—
19. School	—	1	6	1	1
20. Deep Litter Houses	—	—	3	—	1
21. Caravan Sites and Caravans	—	—	1	1	—
22. Playing Fields	—	—	1	1	—
23. New Business premises and alterations	—	—	—	15	—
24. Burial Grounds	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS	243	192	257	240	203

(4) New Houses

During the past 27 years (1930/1956 inclusive)

			Average per Year	
	P.E.	Cl.	P.E.	Cl.
1930-39 (10 years)	247	80	25	8
1939-45 (6 years)	—	30	—	5
1946-1956 (11 years)	155	351	14	32
Totals for 27 years	402	461	15	17
i.e. 32 new houses each year.				

(5) The houses built (and completed) in 1956 were in the following parishes :

	Private Enterprise	Caistor R.D.C.
Bigby	2	—
Caistor	2	—
Buslingthorpe	1	—
Linwood	1	—
Middle Rasen	1	—
North Kelsey	—	4 (bungalows)
Owersby	1	2
Thorganby	1	—
West Rasen	1	—
Willingham N.	1	—
	—	—
	11	6
	—	—

(6) Caravans

The number of licensed caravans in the area during the year was 52.

They were all used for personal occupation by the owner and the standard maintained was very good. All licences are for one year only, except in the case of those on the one licensed site in the area where the site licence covers all the caravans thereon.

The site and the various caravans were inspected from time to time and conditions at all times were satisfactory.

(7) COUNCIL HOUSES—NUMBER IN EACH PARISH

Parish	Total Pre-War	War- time	Post- War	TOTAL	Being built	No. of current applicants.
Bigby	—	—	8	8	—	—
Bishop Norton	—	2	8	10	—	6
Brocklesby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buslingthorpe	4	—	2	6	—	1
Cabourne	—	—	4	4	—	1
Caistor	33	4	57	94	—	71
Claxby	—	—	6	6	—	3
Glentham	—	2	8	10	—	14
Grasby	4	—	4	8	—	—
Holton-le-Moor	—	—	4	4	—	2
Keelby	18	2	28	48	—	30
Kelsey, North	18	2	30	50	—	14
Kelsey, South	14	2	18	34	—	9
Kirmond-le-Mire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legsby	2	2	10	14	—	—
Limber	8	—	12	20	22	7
Linwood	—	—	6	6	—	2
Lissington	—	—	4	4	—	—
Nettleton	14	—	24	38	—	23
Normanby-le-Wold	—	—	4	4	—	1
Osgodby	10	2	6	18	—	8
Owersby	6	4	10	20	—	7
Rasen, Middle	18	—	20	38	—	24
Rasen, West	—	2	2	4	—	8
Riby	—	—	4	4	—	11
Rothwell	—	4	22	26	—	8
Searby-cum-Owmbly	—	—	6	6	—	2
Sixhills	—	—	2	2	—	—
Snitterby	4	—	8	12	—	8
Somerby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stainton-le-Vale	—	—	2	2	—	—
Swallow	—	—	8	8	—	10
Swinhope	—	—	4	4	—	5
Tealby	—	—	12	12	—	10
Thoresway	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorganby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toft Newton	—	—	2	2	—	—
Waddingham	18	2	12	32	—	16
Walesby	—	—	6	6	—	1
Willingham, N.	—	—	4	4	—	2
	171	30	367	568	—	304

Pre-War 171 shown above are all houses

Wartime 30 shown above are all houses

Post-War 367—Houses 298. Bungalows 70

The number of current applications has reduced considerably as the system of annual renewal and inspection has removed all but those who genuinely need a Council house.

(8) Council Houses—General Remarks

The rents of normal Council houses were as follows :—

	Weekly Rent	Rates per week
Pre-war houses		
All services	18/9	6/2—8/2
Other	16/-	
Agricultural houses (1944)	19/-	6/3
Post-war—houses	20/-	8/2
bungalows	11/3	4/-

The amount of contribution per dwelling to the Repairs Fund was again £10 10s. 0d. per house ; the houses were maintained at a high standard of repair and 98 were painted, all by contract. The tenant is responsible for internal decoration only.

(9) Council House Improvements—Pre-war Houses

During the year two houses were improved by renewal of the plumbing system ; 23 of the 30 agricultural houses have now been improved.

(10) Repairs and improvements to private houses and general work under the building byelaws.

The number of plans shows the large variety of work done by contractors in the area and a considerable number of visits had to be made to various projects that were carried out in the district. The system of card notification by builders was of great use in planning the work to be done.

(11) Housing Act, 1949 Section 20.

The amount of grant approved during the year was :—

Number of premises involved	.....	89
Total cost of work	.....	£45,893 4 1
Amount of grant	.....	£18,819 2 11
Average grant was 41% of cost and was £200 per dwelling.		

The Council's policy in the encouragement of owners to improve their properties continued to make a most useful contribution to the well-being of many persons living in isolated and rural communities. It can be claimed, it is suggested, that the Council's wisdom in accepting the terms of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 so wholeheartedly has resulted in a marked improvement in rural living conditions and it has almost certainly arrested the drift of farmworkers from the land.

The Council continued to examine each application carefully by submitting it to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman of all the Committees and with local knowledge and careful checking by the officers the scheme functioned well. Grants were approved in batches each quarter or as circumstances required and no hardship was reported by reason of delay in consideration.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of cost given as grant was on average 41% but some of the original estimate was either repairs or was considered by the Committee to be excessive in cost. Only one tender was asked for (in a scattered rural area it is often impossible to get more than one builder to tender) but the use of a standard basis of pricing materially helped the Council to keep a close watch on prices.

(12) Housing—Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No certificates were issued under this Act during the year.

(13) Summary of work under the Housing Act and Public Health Acts during 1956.

(a) Dwelling-house inspection.

(1) Total houses inspected for defects	594
(2) Number of inspections made for purpose	.....	666
(3) Number of dwellings found to be dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	27
(4) Number of houses found defective but repairable	.....	107
(b) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices		

(1) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	73
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(c) Overcrowding

There is no record of overcrowding in the district at the moment. The permitted number of new houses and reconditioned properties are added to the register compiled under the Housing Act, 1936.

(14) Abatement of Nuisances

Total number of nuisances investigated during the year	.....	67
Total number of nuisances abated as a result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	.....	67

Details of nuisances are as follows :

Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	.....	Nil
Fowls, pigs and other animals	.....	5
Dangerous premises	.....	2
Drainage	.....	30
Other nuisances under Public Health Acts	.....	—
Miscellaneous	.....	30

(15) Housing Survey

An attempt was made to sort out a policy for housing inspection for the whole area and the following basis was accepted by the Council as a reasonable one :—

- (1) Houses in all respects fit and likely to remain so.
- (2) Houses which could well be the subject of improvement, with or without a grant.
- (3) Houses which might remain in occupation for five to ten years but which have a limited life.
- (4) Houses which are totally unfit and should be cleared at an early date.

A list of houses covered by item 4 had already been approved by the Council and much action taken thereon. This list is being added to from time to time.

The problems are the border line cases of type three—in several of the urban communities, Caistor in particular, the removal of sub-standard terraces of houses creates as many problems as it solves for

- (a) the site which remains is narrow, often steep and always expensive to re-develop.
- (b) the use of land outside the present urban area involves extension of facilities, increased distance to work, shops etc., and the taking of good agricultural land.

To strike the balance between the need for good housing at reasonable expense and the need to retain good agricultural land in its present use is a most difficult task—and this problem is as acute in the country towns and villages as it is in the larger urban areas. Country towns have a strong community spirit and to straggle out the residents over a much larger area, even though superficially land may appear available, is not the solution to rural housing problems.

(16) Milk Regulations, 1949

Distributors on registers :—	Steril. 15	Past. 11	T.T. 11	Total
Samples taken during year :— (all satisfactory)	1	8	2	11

(17) Meat Inspection Unsound Food

				Carcases Inspected and condemned Sheep & Cattle Calves Lambs Pigs				Total
Number killed	.....	.....	.....	378	12	673	537	1600
Number Inspected	.....	.....	.....	378	12	673	537	1600
All diseases except Tuberculosis								
Whole carcases condemned	.....	.....	.....	—	—	5	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	7	—	14	10	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	1.8	—	2.83	2.25	
Tuberculosis only—								
Whole carcases condemned	.....	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	18	—	—	16	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	5.3	—	—	3.0	

(18) Food Premises

The following premises are registered in the Rural District :—

Bakehouses	.....	.....	6
Fish and Chip Shops	.....	.....	10
Preserved Food preparation	.....	.....	11
Ice Cream (retail)	.....	.....	37

A survey of all food premises was made under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 and the conditions in November 1956 were as follows :

(a) Premises entirely satisfactory	53
(b) Premises not entirely satisfactory	57

110

The premises in Section (b) are being gradually improved to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

The Council required retailers of meat who use vans for retail sale as well as delivery to install an approved form of washing equipment on their vehicle. Approval was also given to Section 22 (2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for names to be required on all stalls, vans, etc. used for the sale of food.

(19) Ice Cream

Number of premises on register 37 for sale of prepacked ice cream.

During the year 5 (all satisfactory) samples of pre-packed ice cream were taken.

Factories Act, 1936.

There are 66 factories in the area—35 with mechanical power and 31 without it. Conditions at all the factories were satisfactory. None of the premises are large and the list mainly consists of garages, builders' yards and similar small workplaces.

(20) Sewerage

Further progress was made in the preparation of the plan for a small scale sewage treatment plant at Brocklesby.

The records of dykes containing sewage were completed and a complete record, with a plan of each dyke, is now kept in the office.

An experiment with a partial treatment system in a dyke grossly polluted was carried out and resulted in a considerable reduction in the deposition of sludge further down the dyke.

During the year 141 treatment tanks were emptied—these were mainly sewage treatment tanks to private houses and the amount charged was £1 per tank emptied. In many cases this does not cover the actual cost of the work. Disposal of the contents of the tanker, both from treatment tanks and from nightsoil, is mainly by broadcasting the liquid on suitable fields. A full record of the site of the disposal of each load is kept, and the source of each load can be related thereto. Sludge from the sewage disposal works at Tealby and at Keelby is difficult to dispose of and only minor amounts were removed during the year.

(21) Drainage

The Council recommenced the giving of grants under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 on the following basis :—

For connection to septic tank £10

For connection to sewer £5

With the provision in both cases that the grant would be 50% only if the work cost less than £20 or £10 respectively.

During 1956, 31 properties were the subject of assistance.

	Total Cost
17 for connection to sewer	£85 0 0
14 for connection to septic tank	£140 0 0
TOTAL	£225 0 0

(22) Water Supply

Further discussion continued on the proposed creation of a Water Board for North East Lincolnshire. An enquiry was held in October 1956 and evidence by the various Councils and other persons was heard by an Engineering Inspector on behalf of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(23) Public Scavenging

The system continued as in previous year, i.e. weekly collection from Caistor and Stainton-le-Vale parishes and fortnightly from all other parishes except Kirmond-le-Mire. The method of collection is from the place of storage of the bin ; the occupier does not need either to bring the bin out or to return it.

Disposal continued to be by the use of refuse to fill in existing depressions, i.e. quarries, etc.; no serious nuisance arose therefrom.

(24) Rodent Control

The Council continued to employ a full-time operator and the number of complaints of infestation by rats and mice was again comparatively small. A regular survey of farms, tips, sewers and buildings meant that the number of rats in the area was always kept at a reasonable level. The following table gives the number of inspections made :—

Complaints	.....	.....	.....	370
Inspections	.....	.....	.....	1,642
Treatments	.....	.....	.....	748 of which 179 were for major infestations.

Relations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with the farmers and with the general public were at all times harmonious. No claims for any damage resulting from work of rodent destruction arose during the year.

(25) Dangerous Structure—Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58.

The necessary steps were taken for the Church spire at Grasby to be demolished and the tower made safe (this is now almost completely done—July 1957).

(26) Public Conveniences

An attempt was made to obtain a public convenience at Caistor. The site chosen did not meet with the approval of some of the local residents and no real progress was made. There can be no doubt that a well-constructed public convenience, in a suitable situation, is an urgent need for Caistor.

Public Health Department—Staff.

Mr. Roland Garrood of North Kelsey was appointed student public health inspector in July 1956 and commenced duties on 1st September, 1956.



J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN